

Headquarters for the United Farm Workers is P. O. Box #62, Keene, Ca 93531. When trying to set up an appointment with Cesar Chavez, write directly to him, and also, perhaps, to Jose Gomez, who is administrator for the National Headquarters. Usually when Chavez is on the road, visiting other cities, he has a very crowded schedule, but it is possible you might catch him in a city outside California. If he is leading an organizing ~~drive~~, in Arizona or Coachella, it is quite possible you could get an interview with him. Let him know your schedule, and ask for his. Make yourself flexible and they can very possibly work you in. Let him know who you are, your own background, and who you're writing for. If you have good union contacts in Germany, especially on the docks or in transportation or in the food industry, which might be able to help in the boycott, be prepared to share your information.

At the union headquarters, you might also be interested in talking to Jerry Cohen, the Chief Counsel (lawyer) for the union or someone else in the legal department, who could fill you in on the legal restrictions and discrimination against farm workers which makes organizing so difficult. They could also fill you in on the political setting in which the union takes place. You might also go by the union newspaper, "El Malcriado," which has a great quantity of material on the history of the movement and on the Chicano movement in general. And there are many interesting individuals at La Paz who could give great interviews on their own lives. Most people at the union headquarters, La Paz, speak English, though a knowledge of Spanish would be helpful.

If you are coming through New York, try to see Dolores Huerta. She is an International Vice President of the union, a delegate to the 1968 and 1972 Democratic National Conventions, an activist in the women's and Chicano women's movement. A Catholic and mother of nine, she has been more or less second in command in the union since 1967. If you can get a chance to talk to her, she could give you invaluable insights into many aspects of the Chicano movement. Take her out to lunch or meet her on a picket line. Call ahead to confirm your meeting. But don't be surprised if she has had to fly off somewhere at the last minute and breaks the appointment. The Manhattan address of the union is 331 West 84th St., New York City. The phone is 799-5800. There will also be a number of farm workers working with the New York boycott office, many of whom could give you great interviews... families, young people, old people, many who had never been out of the fields until joining the boycott, and are now "organizers," speaking to college groups and



Westchester County types in furthering La Causa. There are similar groups in Philadelphia, Boston, Washington (led by Gilbert Padilla, another Union Vice President, and one who could give you a run down on Chicano politicians and bureaucrats in Washington and probably set you up with appointments with some), Detroit, Chicago, etc. Chicago has the largest Chicano population outside the Southwest, several hundred thousand; is the end of the "underground railroad" for illegal aliens from Mexico who escape from farm labor; and is the escape city for many migrants working the Midwest farm labor routes up from Texas into Michigan. The (Catholic) Bishop's Committee for the Spanish Speaking, at 1300 S. Wabash, Chicago, has offices for various Church activities in Chicago and many other groups meet there. That might be a good starting point for interviews in Chicago with illegals, ex-farm workers on welfare, and those who have "made it" with good unnonn jobs or middle class jobs. There are even a vfew rich Chicanos. You could get in touch with all through someone at 1300 S. Wabash.

I don't really know the scene in Texas, things change so rapidly. There is a United Farm jWorkers office in Houston. There are Chicano politicians from La Raza Unida Party radicals like Jose Angel Guttierrez in Crystal City to reactionaries like Kika de la Garza, Congressman from the Rio Grande Valley. The Union also has an office in the Rio Grande Valley (McAllen, I think). The Rio Grande Valley has the largest and poorest concentration of Chicanos in the United States, people living in mud huts with dirt floors, whole barrios and "colonias" of appallingly feudal conditions. I have been gone since 1967 and don't know the scene, but someone from the union or perhaps the Church (the Diosecan headquarters in Brownsfille, Bishop Madieros) might be able to take you areound and show you some of the camps and "colonias" which are mostly off the paved roads or hidden from view). Not quite so far out of the way is San Antonio, where again the Church (Bishop Flores) is very involved and concerned in the Chicano movement. Joe and Joan Suarez of San Antonio are organizers for the Amalgamated Clothing Workers or America, AFL-CIO (he is an International Rep). They would have wide contacts in laiberal and union Chicano circles in Texas. The Clothing Workers are leading a strike of 3000 Chicana women against Farah Pants in El Paso, and the Suarezes would be fascinating to talk to in themselves and could get you good contacts among other unions, politicians, and women's movement activists. The ACWA office in El Paso is at 6550 Old Highway 90 West, San Antonio, Texas (phone 673-6881; 673-4062).

In Arizona, the United Farm Workers have an office in Tolleson, and Gus Guttierrez knows everyone in the Chicano movement in Arizona. Coming into California, there are Chicano student groups on almost every campus now, and



all manner of urban groups. I have various friends who are active in various degrees, or were active. Jesus Campusano of San Francisco (1524 Treat, San Francisco, 824-4295) is a really fine artist, has done a number of wall murals in the "Chicano revolutionary" style, now works with high school students, I think. He worked for the union for several years and in various poverty programs and church programs. Juan and Maree Flores of Los Angeles, at 2809 The Mall, were both long-time activists in the Union, in the strike, on the boycott, and heading the Credit Union. Juan was the first draft resister (actually conscientious objector) to come out of Texas in 1967, having been a farm worker at Di Giorgio Fruit Company when the union began its organizing and strike there in 1966. Flores, along with a number of other workers, Chavez and two priests were seized by company guards, stripped, and chained and locked in the back of a truck over night during that strike, before being turned over to police the next day. Evans and Margaret Garcia, a brother and sister who have been active in Chicano student and Chicano labor activities (including the Farm Workers) in Albuquerque, may or may not still be activists. Both were active in the first student strikes and "blowouts" in Albuquerque in the late 1960s. Evans' last address was 3402 Grand N. E., Albuquerque.

As I say, I am out of touch with the "Movement" having worked on the boycott two years (in Philadelphia and St. Louis, both very isolated from the Chicano movement) and then in the fields two years. But the United Farm Workers offices in most big Eastern cities, the Bishop's Committee office in Chicago, and the Clothing workers in San Antonio would be good places to visit before you get to California (or on your way home). For urban contacts in California, you need a better guide than me. I hope that this can be of some assistance to you and that you in turn can help us in our struggle.

Sincerely,

Douglass Adair



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